



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications – (401) 222-8471

Embargo until: Immediate release - Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 @ noon

### **Middletown High Spanish Teacher Named 2010 R.I. Teacher of the Year**

MIDDLETOWN – In a surprise ceremony today (December 9, 2009) at Middletown High School, Governor Donald L. Carcieri and Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist named Dana E. Ramey, a Spanish teacher at the school for the past 13 years, as the 2010 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Ramey, or Señor Ramey as he is known to students, now becomes a candidate for 2010 National Teacher of the Year.

“Señor Ramey has had tremendous success in broadening both the language skills and cultural education of his students, while creating a classroom environment that celebrates learning,” said Governor Carcieri. “He is not only an effective and well-loved teacher, he is also a respected leader who is personally invested in advancing foreign-language education. He clearly understands the value of graduating students with a world perspective and ability to communicate with people from other cultures.”

“As we prepare our students to succeed in the global economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is vital that we educate students in the languages and the cultures of the world,” said Patrick A. Guida, vice-chair of the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education. “Through his devotion to his subject and to the teaching profession, Dana Ramey has made a profound contribution to his school and to the students of Middletown.”

“As one of his students put it, Señor Ramey teaches Spanish not just as a class, but as a new way to interact with the world,” said Commissioner Gist. “He is known for teaching through what he calls immersion experiences: bringing cultural awareness as well as language instruction to the classroom and leading students on homestays in Mexico and Spain. Señor Ramey is an excellent example of a highly effective educator for today. As one parent noted, he is a role model who helps students and families see that we are all citizens of the world.”

A graduate of UMass-Dartmouth with a master’s in education from the University of Rhode Island, Señor Ramey developed a program through which high-school students teach Spanish to Middletown 4<sup>th</sup>-graders and he organizes the annual “World Language Fair” at the high school.

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**Telephone** 401-222-4600   **Fax** 401-222-6178   **TTY** 800-745-5555   **Voice** 800-745-6575

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Señor Ramey, of Newport, serves on the board of the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association and the Northeast Conference for Teachers of Foreign Languages advisory board. In 2003, he received a Fulbright Teacher Exchange, allowing him to teach in Mexico. He holds National Board Certification in world languages.

As he wrote about his own work: “Since I teach a world language, I derive the same joy as that of a father of a child learning to speak. The new utterances of daily speech acquisition all leading to the ultimate goal of critical thinking, reasoning, evaluating in the language that I had a part in instilling give me untold pleasure. Knowing that I have helped to make our students a little more ready for the wide world around them is a great and worthy reward.”